Police atrocities on inhabitants of Batala Punjab

2977. SHRI P. K. KUNJACHEN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the Indian Post of 15th February, 1989 regarding police atrocities on inhabitants of Batala in Punjab;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) the action taken by Government to gain confidence of the people of that town?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A number of steps have been taken by the Government of Punjab to tone-up the Police Administration to restore the confidence of the people. An Additional Deputy Commissioner has been posted at Batala and he alongwith SSP Batala is undertaking tours of the villages to look into the grievances of the people and redress them. An Empowered District Committee has also been established for the speedy redressal of the public grievances. The District Police officers have been instructed to show due regards to the Sarpanch/Panches and other respectable villagers who may visit their offices and Police stations to ensure that proper justice is given to their complaints. Senior Police and Civil officers are constantly monitoring and reviewing the situation.

Afforestation target

2978. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Wasteland Development Board has set a higher afforestation target for the current financial year; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the amount allotted for the pu pose?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) and (b) For the current financial year, the afforestation target for all States and Union Territories put together is 1.6 million hectares and the total allocation for the programme is about Rs. 400 crores. These figures do not include the coverage and allocation for Social Forestry under the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana which is to be implemented through the Panchayats.

Inquiry into police excesses in Punjab

2979. SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN:

SHRI NARAYAN KAR:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to order an indepth inquiry into police excesses on innocent people in Punjab; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and by when it is likely to start?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Enquiry commissions on riots in the Country

2980. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of enquiry commissions constituted by the Central Government to investigate into the causes of riots in various parts of the country so far;

(b) how many of these commissions submitted their reports; and

(c) the details of action taken on such reports